TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 22, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 17 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent above the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 340.1 billion ton-miles, up 0.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 17 totaled 390,719, down 0.1 percent from last year, but 2.6 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 8.2 percent in the West, but down 8.3 percent in the East, and 4.0 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up by 3,527 cars (30.4 percent) and grain posted a gain of 2,080 cars (12.7 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 10 totaled 101,278 trailers and/or containers, 16.3 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 1,865,876 trailers and/or containers, up 16.7 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/17/86:

	Loadings in Week ended May 17, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	18,434	I	2,080	12.7	I	2,956	19.1
Other farm products	4,006	I	476	13.5	I	513	14.7
Metallic ores	19,364	D	2,042	9.5	I	2,382	14.0
Coal	110,426	D	8,901	7.5	I	2,523	2.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,132	I	3,527	30.4	D	22	0.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,880	D	1,657	14.4	D	67	0.7
Grain mill products	10,399	I	63	0.6	D	19	0.2
Food and kindred products	10,996	D	5	0.0	I	305	2.9
Primary forest products	10,073	D	2,265	18.4	D	163	1.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,066	I	197	2.5	I	100	1.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,127	D	738	5.3	I	734	5.9
Chemicals and allied products	24,548	D	728	2.9	D	1,160	4.5
Petroleum products	4,833	I	274	6.0	I	88	1.9
Stone, clay and glass products	10,756	D	674	5.9	I	306	2.9
Coke	4,763	D	839	15.0	D	314	6.2
Metals and products	8,592	D	597	6.5	I	10	0.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,884	D	1,740	7.4	I	282	1.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,394	D	312	3.6	I	223	2.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,854	D	3,397	54.3	I	67	2.4
All other carloads	74,088	I	16,949	29.7	I	1,052	1.4
LCL traffic	104	D	27	20.6	I	2	2.0
Total Cars Loaded	390,719	D	356	0.1	I	9,798	2.6
Corresponding week of 1985	391,075						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	7,478,788	7,483,747	D 0.1

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

19 Weeks ended May 10	322.7	322.2	I 0.2
Week ended May 17	17.5	17.2	I 1.7
20 weeks cumulative	340.1	339.3	I 0.2

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